

Econet meeting **Thursday 8th December 05**

Prospect Park 7.30pm

1. Apologies: BTCV, Trish Marcouse, Philip Allen

2. Present: Kit Brownlee RUWG Chair

Dave Kenny Cav. Globe and FOBW

Judith Oliver FOCC

Alan Stevens CROW

Carolyn Jenkins RBC Parks

Dave Booth RBC Parks

Steve Ayers FOMPF

John Lepiniere CROW

Paul Fincher Website

Ruth Angus CROW

3. Minutes of last meeting: clarity needed on ref to Woodlands Day, discussed below

4. Matters arising none

5. Accounts : Accounts to date for ECONET & CROW were presented & accepted.

Sandra Ayers will audit ECONET accounts for the AGM at end of year [March] Thanks given to Alan for work done on accounts

Insurance renewal: due end of December same level of cover expected, £5m public liability, machines other than chain saw; Waterloo Meadows tool store only one covered [contains the brush cutter]

6. Reports from groups:

Baltimore dormant but planning tasks with CRoW in New Year

Clayfield: monthly tasks continuing, organized a Fungus walk with Gordon Crutchfield in October over 25 attended

CRoW: very busy weekly tasks numbers ebb and flow

Mapledurham: Autumn & Spring tasks only a programme of things to do clearance of woodland mainly ensuring new plantings by Brownies are not smothered with bracken and nettles.

RUWG small group moving mainly into advisory work, planning issues, and maintenance of allotment

7. Open spaces Strategy Carolyn Jenkins:

Two consultations for park strategy plans [which run hand in hand].

1, Questionnaire/consultation produced by Green Space on general service provided of all open spaces in the borough; available on website www.greenstat.org.uk

2. Another questionnaire/consultation by Green Space 'Site Specific' about any open space public, private, roadside within Reading that may be named by user and commented on available on same website. **

8. Living Landmarks Carolyn Jenkins; This is a funding application with Heritage Lottery Fund for Hills Meadow area for theatre and car park etc. a sustainable project, green roof etc. This is only phase 1 of application which does not commit the project. Much enthusiastic discussion ensued and the meeting thanked Carolyn for her presentation

9 Woodlands Day review of RBC support and future funding.

FOCC are grateful for practical and financial support given for this third Day but generally not enthusiastic about making this event a permanent fixture. The day was a

great success well attended by family groups. There was lots of volunteer help on the day. Disappointedly there had been no feedback or recognition of the work done from RBC. The work involved, particularly organizing funding, proved time consuming and frustrating.¹

Meeting suggestions included Dave Booth could take on the grant applications, the preparation jobs could be distributed between more Econet members, the event could be every other year, that councillors etc were unaware of event and more PR was needed beforehand to encourage RBC funding.

¹ I would like to add something here which I meant to mention, and that was the time factor between planning and knowing when we had the money, the event needs to be planned a year in advance and not knowing whether we have the money until a few months beforehand, added to the frustration.

10 Website: Sponsorship from Miranda to continue for two more years, web hosting renewal made, now £40 pa for wider range of facilities bulletin board, discussion group sub web sites which can be accessed by groups directly to up date. Paul thanked for the work done.

11 Econet constitution: Need to get this right as it affects any insurance claim we might make. Due to lateness this item will be discussed in full at next meeting

12 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 8th March. Dave Booth to book room

**PS I think there is another consultation re Caversham Lock Development on RBC website www.reading.gov.uk*

JO

PPS Items for next meeting agenda

? Invite a rep from Reading Voluntary Action Group to talk about how they can help us??

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PPPS Just spoken with David Hewitt of Green Space at Caversham Court to clear up the two consultations [he urges us to fill in both] and I mentioned Xmas Tree sales at Caversham Court. He said he will be getting back to me!

JO